

Orange and Union Streets Neighborhood Study
Nathaniel Woodbury House
22 Orange Street
Nantucket
Nantucket County
Massachusetts

HABS No. MASS-1070

HABS
MASS
10-NANT
16P-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

ORANGE AND UNION STREETS NEIGHBORHOOD STUDY
NATHANIEL WOODBURY HOUSEHABS
MASS
10-NANT
76P-

Location: 22 Orange Street (on east side), Nantucket, Massachusetts

Present Owners: Henry Augustus Willard, 2nd, and Abby Hooker Willard

Present Occupants: Willard family

Present Use: Seasonal occupancy

Brief Statement of Significance: Pre-Revolutionary War house built in Fish Lot Share No. 5 when the town was moved to this new location; part of the Orange and Union Streets Neighborhood Study (MASS-1014).

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners:

- 1760 -- 1770 -- Nathaniel Woodbury built the house.
- 1796 -- Captain Seth Folger bought from Andrew Woodbury, attorney for his father Nathaniel, for \$1170. Excepted was the cabinet maker's shop on the south "now occupied by F. W. Folger".
- 1829 -- Winifred L. Vincent, granddaughter of Captain Seth Folger, inherited the property.
- 1880 -- Alfred G. Cary bought from his sister, Winifred L. Vincent.
- 1893 -- Winifred L. Vincent under will of Alfred G. Cary.
- 1918 -- Myron Vincent by deed from his mother, Winifred L. Vincent.
- 1933 to date -- Henry Augustus Willard, 2nd, and Abby Hooker Willard from Myron Vincent.
(Abstract: Records Registry Deeds, Nantucket, Mass.)

- 2. Date of erection: c. 1760. When the house was sold to Captain Seth Folger in 1796, the deed stated that it was the same house built by Nathaniel Woodbury in Fish Lot Share No. 5 and occupied by him until that time.
(Abstract: Book 14, Page 413, Registry Deeds, Nantucket, Massachusetts)

3. Architect: None
4. Original plans, construction, etc.: Small, simple, central chimney dwelling. Several small ells and sheds were added from time to time.
5. Notes on alterations and additions: Many changes have been made to this house and to No. 26, next on the west. There is no No. 24.

An 1887 map shows the main house with a long ell and two sheds at the back. On the west was the small building used by F. W. Folger as a cabinet maker's shop and on the west of that was a building used by undertakers with a shed having a large side door in back of that for storing coffins. These sheds and out-buildings were taken down and much renovating was done, especially during the Willard ownership.

(Abstract: Book of Plans, Oct. 1887, Sheet No. 6, Registry Deeds, Nantucket, Massachusetts)

B. Historical Events Connected with the Structure:

Nathaniel Woodbury was married in 1752 and his children were born in the years between then and 1776, so it seems probable that he built the house around 1760. (Abstract: Deed of 1796, which states house was built by Nathaniel Woodbury and occupied by him until that time.)

Captain Seth Folger, next owner of the house, made several voyages to the Pacific Whaling grounds on Ship Harmony and Ship Rebecca. He died at sea in 1815 on Ship Alert on a voyage to the Cape of Good Hope whaling grounds.

This house has been owned by only three families in over two hundred years.

C. Sources of Information:

1. Old Views: Drawing of this section of Orange Street in Nantucket Sketchbook by Edwin Eberman, Nantucket: S. F. Baker, 1946; Orange Street, Lithograph by Ruth Haviland Sutton; Book of Plans, Oct. 1887, Sheet No. 6 (in Registry of Deeds, Nantucket, Massachusetts).

Prepared by Mrs. Marie M. Coffin
Nantucket, Massachusetts
July 1970

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

These records were prepared as part of the Orange and Union Streets

Neighborhood Study (MASS-1014) made in the summer of 1970 by the Historic American Buildings Survey on Nantucket, Massachusetts. This is the fifth summer project of a continuing HABS comprehensive survey of the early architecture and urban design of Nantucket financed by a grant from the Nantucket Historical Trust.

The project was under the general supervision of James C. Massey, Chief of the Historic American Buildings Survey. Project Director was Professor F. Blair Reeves, A.I.A., of the University of Florida. Historical information was provided by Mrs. Marie M. Coffin of Nantucket, Massachusetts. Photographs are by Jack E. Boucher of Linwood, New Jersey. The material was edited for deposit in the Library of Congress by Mrs. Constance Werner Ramirez, August 1971.